

Phase 3: MDS 3.0 Integration and Alignment of Pilot Activities

This phase includes translation of the results from Phase 2 into community-based protocols, developing instructions for new MDS items and pilot testing integrated protocols and MDS items in Veterans Administration (VA) and community nursing homes. After VA validation pilot testing completion, the VA Health Services Research and Development (VHA HSR&D) research team presented its pilot work to VA leadership, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) leadership and an expert

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workgroup shown below.

The Workgroup on the Integrated Tool (WIT) met in Arlington, VA to review the results from the pilot activities and to review proposed items for national testing. Follow-up conference calls were also conducted.

The WIT also reviewed a common structure for MDS instructions and sample instructions that were created in collaboration with Carelink Corporation and Rena Shephard, MHA, RN, FACDONA, RAC-C. Instructions for revised sections have been included in pilot testing. The Kleiman group is providing consultation on form elements that will enhance the functionality of MDS data collection.

Feedback from the WIT as well as recommendations from Apelon work addressing consolidated health informatics (CHI) and health information technology have been incorporated into the development of an MDS form that is currently being pilot tested in community and VHA nursing homes. Once pilot testing is complete and feedback is complete, the research team will finalize MDS items, instructions and validation protocols to be tested in a national sample of community nursing homes during phase 3 of MDS revisions. To create the community validation protocols, the RAND/Harvard research team is considering the results of community pilot testing, WIT feedback, Phase 2 VA pilot test results, stakeholder feedback, recommendations from CMS standardized nomenclature contractor, planned resource utilization group (RUGs) Staff Time and Resource Intensity Verification (STRIVE) activities and feedback from the CMS –MDS Phase I project.